

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### St. Louis, Missouri

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **St. Louis, Missouri**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 348,189 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 42.9% white; 51% black/African American; 0.2% American Indian/Alaska Native; 2% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.2% some other race; 1.7% two or more races; 2% Hispanic origin

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Francis G. Slay<sup>2</sup>
- Board of Alderman President: James F. Shrewsbury<sup>3</sup>
- Board of Alderman (Wards 1-28, respectively): Irene J. Smith; Dionne Flowers; Freeman M. Bosley, Sr.; Peggy Ryan; April Ford-Griffin; Lewis E. Reed; Phyllis Young; Stephen Conway; Kenneth Ortmann; Craig Schmid; Matt Villa; Fred Heitert; Alfred Wessels, Jr.; Stephen Gregali; Jennifer Florida; vacant (Ward 16); Joseph D. Roddy; Terry Kennedy; Michael McMillan; Sharon Tyus; Melinda L. Long; James Ozier; Colleen M. Sondermann; Tom Bauer; Dan E. Kirner; Irving Clay, Jr.; Gregory Carter; Lyda Krewson<sup>4</sup>
- St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Chief: Colonel Joseph Mokwa<sup>5</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>6</sup>  
Designated in 1996, the Midwest HIDTA is responsible for areas of Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Missouri, including St. Louis.
- Substance Abuse Mental Health Information (SAMHI)<sup>7</sup>  
SAMHI is an online, publicly funded site designed to help consumers, families, and professionals locate services and information relating to mental health, addiction, and mental retardation services in the St. Louis area.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in St. Louis:<sup>8</sup>  
Since FY 1998, funding for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program was only received in FY 2001. In FY 2001, \$100,000 was awarded to the City of St. Louis Regional Response to Prevent Youth Violence, Drug Addiction and Teen Pregnancy Coalition.
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>9</sup>  
The St. Louis Weed and Seed has been implemented in seven neighborhoods: Benton Park West; Fountain Park; Fox Park; Gravois Park; Lewis Park; Tower Grove East; Vandeventer.
- FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) Formula and Discretionary Grant Awards received in St. Louis:<sup>10</sup>
  - Center for Mental Health Services
    - \$431,592 to Community Alternatives. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2004.

- \$745,522 to the University of Missouri St. Louis. Project period: 9/30/1998-8/31/2003.
- \$402,238 to the City of St. Louis M.H.B.T. Project period: 9/30/2001-9/29/2004.
- Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
  - \$500,000 to University of Missouri. Project period: 7/15/2001-7/14/2002.
- Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
  - \$461,003 to the City of St. Louis. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29/2002.
  - \$490,500 to the City of St. Louis. Project period: 9/30/2001-9/29/2004.
  - \$581,596 to the City of St. Louis Mental Health. Project period: 9/30/2001-9/29/2002.
  - \$334,515 to Blacks Assisting Blacks Against AIDS. Project period: 9/30/1999-9/29-2002.
  - \$398,295 to Washington University. Project period: 9/30/2000-9/29/2003.
- There were no St. Louis recipients of the FY 2002 Office of Justice Program Drug Court Grants.<sup>11</sup>
- FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grant amount received in St. Louis:<sup>12</sup>
  - \$125,000 awarded to JVL 16 Associates, LTD
- St. Louis did not receive any methamphetamine funding in 2002 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.<sup>13</sup>
- FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented Policing Services grant amounts received in St. Louis:<sup>14</sup>
  - \$100,000 in discretionary funds
  - \$4,655,465 in formula funds

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- During 2000, the crime index total for St. Louis was 50,653.<sup>15</sup> This number increased to 52,635 during 2001.<sup>16</sup> Preliminary data show that there were 24,109 crime index offenses known to law enforcement in St. Louis from January to June 2002.<sup>17</sup>

Number of Index Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, St. Louis, 2000-June 2002

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Full Year 2000</b>	<b>Full Year 2001</b>	<b>Jan-June 2002</b>
Murder and non-negligent manslaughter	124	148	51
Forcible rape	112	120	57
Robbery	3,224	3,140	1,331
Aggravated assault	4,476	4,256	1,975
Burglary	8,020	8,128	3,259
Larceny-theft	26,862	28,000	13,187
Motor vehicle theft	7,835	8,843	4,249
Arson	796	711	272
Crime index total	50,653	52,635	24,109

## Drugs

### ➤ Cocaine

Crack availability has stabilized in the St. Louis area. Users tend to be 18 years old or older. Older users tend to be of low-socioeconomic status and live in central city locations, while younger users are more diverse in socioeconomic status and live in both the suburbs and central city areas. Powder cocaine users tend to be white. Powder cocaine is often adulterated with inositol, which is a crystalline stereoisomeric cyclic alcohol.<sup>18</sup> Cocaine has a wide market base, remains inexpensive, and is prevalent in the urban areas. Young users smoke crack exclusively, while “old-time” users prefer injection and often combine cocaine and heroin (speedball).<sup>19</sup> Crack cocaine prices are \$20 for a rock and \$300-\$400 for a gram. Powder cocaine, which is approximately 77% pure, sells for \$100-\$125 per gram.<sup>20</sup>

### ➤ Heroin

Heroin is considered somewhat available in the St. Louis area. Mexican black tar and Mexican brown heroin are widely available. Colombian and Southeast Asian heroin are decreasing in availability. Users tend to be young adults (18-30) or adults (over 30). Younger users have more diverse socioeconomic status and live in both central and suburban areas. Sellers often engage in violent crimes, burglaries, larceny, and thefts. Snorting is the predominant form of ingestion among younger users while injecting is more common among older users.<sup>21</sup> One gram of heroin sells for \$100.<sup>22</sup>

### ➤ Marijuana

Marijuana is widely available in the St. Louis area. Local commercial marijuana is the most widely available, followed by Mexican commercial marijuana and sinsemilla. Sellers are very likely to use their own drug.<sup>23</sup> Sinsemilla (with a 20% THC content) sells for \$500-\$1,200 a pound where as imported marijuana sells for \$2,000 to \$4,000 a pound. Indoor production of marijuana is the primary cultivation method used in the St. Louis area in an attempt to make weather less of a factor in the drug production.<sup>24</sup> Marijuana prices range from \$20 for a bag to \$100 for an ounce.<sup>25</sup>

### ➤ Methamphetamine

Efforts against precursor chemicals have made it more difficult for people to cook methamphetamine. However, the prevalence of mobile meth labs and the use of motels to produce meth have increased.<sup>26</sup> The red phosphorus method of meth production has declined because people began notifying the police when customers bought more than one box of red matchsticks. Independent sellers are more likely to use the drug than their organized counterparts. Novice meth users are increasing.<sup>27</sup> Locally-produced meth (70-80% pure) sells for \$37-\$100 per gram. Mexican produced meth (20-30% pure) sells for \$700-\$1,300 an ounce.<sup>28</sup>

### ➤ Club Drugs

Adolescents in the St. Louis area continue to be increasingly involved in ecstasy sales, which have expanded from college age to high school age sellers. White users predominate, although black users are emerging.<sup>29</sup> Researchers in the St. Louis area tested a new substance abuse module in club drugs. Of the pilot sample of 60 adolescents and young adults, 23% reported club drug use more than five times in their lifetime, all involving ecstasy and several involving ketamine. GHB use has increased in the area.<sup>30</sup> A capful of GHB costs \$5 and an ounce sells for \$40. LSD

sells for \$2-\$4 a dose.<sup>31</sup> Following a recent law enforcement crackdown on precursors and Internet sales, reports of GHB sales have declined.<sup>32</sup>

➤ Other Drugs

The abuse of oxycodone by prescription is growing in popularity. The injection of a liquid form of oxycodone has also been reported.<sup>33</sup> OxyContin and heroin are often used as substitutes for one another.<sup>34</sup>

### **Enforcement**

- Law enforcement in the St. Louis area have increased surveillance activity along Highway 44, which is a major connection route to Mexico.<sup>35</sup>
- Midwest HIDTA initiatives in St. Louis include the following:<sup>36</sup>
  - St. Louis DEA Intel Group – Members of this task force provide investigative intelligence regarding methamphetamine to HIDTA task forces by working in conjunction with the DEA.
  - FBI Enforcement and Intelligence Task Force – This task force is responsible for gathering intelligence, interdicting methamphetamine and other drug shipments, and conducting long-term investigations of methamphetamine importers and manufacturers.
  - Missouri Metropolitan and Rural Enforcement Initiative – Members of this task force assist in the implementation of a coordinated and cooperative enforcement strategy among the multi-jurisdictional task forces to improve their ability to identify and combat the distribution and manufacture of methamphetamine.
- As of October 2001, there were 1,994 law enforcement personnel in St. Louis (1,408 officers and 586 civilians).<sup>37</sup>

### **Trafficking and Seizures**

- Hispanic traffickers and individual entrepreneurs, rather than motorcycle gangs, are the predominate distributors of methamphetamine in St. Louis.<sup>38</sup>
- There have been a few recent seizures of “mom and pop” methamphetamine laboratories in the St. Louis area.<sup>39</sup>

### **Courts**

- Drug Courts<sup>40</sup>

As of January 2003, there were two drug courts operating for over two years and two drug courts recently implemented in St. Louis. No additional drug courts are being planned.

### **Consequences of Use**

- Toxicology reports showed high levels of MDMA in the blood of five young men found dead in a car in a closed garage. The descendents died from carbon monoxide poisoning from the car exhaust. The fumes were created because the boys left the car running to keep cool after taking the drug.<sup>41</sup>
- During 2001, there were 67 drug-related deaths in the city of St. Louis. Cocaine was mentioned in 34 of the deaths.<sup>42</sup>

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, City of St. Louis, 1998-2001

	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	15	17	19	28
Cocaine	51	47	42	34
Heroin/morphine	27	27	20	10
Marijuana	24	32	24	6
Amphetamine	--	--	--	--
Methamphetamine	2	1	1	--
Club drugs	--	2	2	--
Hallucinogens	1	--	2	6
Inhalants	1	--	3	--
Narcotic analgesics	15	10	23	20
Other analgesics	9	3	2	4
Benzodiazepines	11	9	15	20
Antidepressants	4	6	7	11
All other substances	13	22	21	25
Total drug deaths	84	87	74	67
Total drug mentions	173	176	181	164

- During 2001, there were 2,311 emergency department (ED) mentions of marijuana in St. Louis. Preliminary data show that there were 1,592 ED marijuana mentions in St. Louis from January to June 2002.<sup>43</sup>

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, St. Louis, 1999-June 2002

Selected Drugs	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan-June 2002
Alcohol in combination	2,033	2,490	3,157	1,418
Cocaine	2,329	2,403	3,080	1,830
Heroin	851	1,084	1,309	640
Marijuana	1,639	1,763	2,311	1,592
Amphetamine	184	126	167	--
Methamphetamine	104	162	115	59
MDMA (Ecstasy)	15	52	55	24
Ketamine	0	0	--	1
LSD	70	74	52	18
PCP	26	74	110	46
Miscellaneous hallucinogens	12	5	--	--
Flunitrazepam (Rohypnol)	0	0	0	0
GHB	8	7	--	3
Inhalants	26	17	17	8
Drug abuse episodes	6,336	6,908	8,216	4,927
Drug abuse mentions	11,687	13,317	15,963	9,099

## Treatment

- Treatment funding has been reduced in St. Louis, decreasing treatment slot capacity and increasing treatment waiting lists.<sup>44</sup>
- Treatment staff are now more aware of dual diagnosis than in the past and are working more closely with mental health centers to get clients all of the help they require.<sup>45</sup>
- An adolescent treatment program recently opened in St. Louis.<sup>46</sup>
- Crack is the primary drug of choice identified in the inner city treatment programs.<sup>47</sup>
- From 1996 to the second half of 2000, treatment data showed an increase in the number of heroin users (from 345 to 770). Marijuana treatment admissions more than doubled from 1,573 to 3,231 between 1997 and 2000.<sup>48</sup>
- During 2000, 46% of persons aged 18-25 were admitted for substance abuse treatment with marijuana as their primary substance of abuse.<sup>49</sup>

Percent of Treatment Admissions, by Age and Primary Substance, St. Louis, 2000

	35 +	26-34	18-25	≤ 17
Cocaine	63%	31%	6%	< 1%
Heroin	42	25	31	1
Marijuana	15	23	46	17

- During 2000, 38% of treatment admissions in St. Louis were for cocaine.<sup>50</sup>

Percent of Treatment Admissions, by Primary Substance, St. Louis, 2000

Cocaine	Heroin	Marijuana	Stimulants
38%	13%	27%	3%

## Sources

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<sup>2</sup> St. Louis Mayor Web site: <http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/mayor/>

<sup>3</sup> St. Louis Board of Alderman Web site: <http://stlcin.missouri.org/alderman/>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department

<sup>6</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area section: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_midw.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_midw.html)

<sup>7</sup> Substance Abuse Mental Health Information Web site: <http://www.mimh.edu/samhi/samhi.asp>

<sup>8</sup> Drug-Free Communities Support Program, Missouri Grantees: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/dfcs/states/mo.html>

<sup>9</sup> Executive Office for Weed and Seed Data Center, St. Louis, Missouri: [http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/MO-st\\_louis/index.shtml](http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/MO-st_louis/index.shtml)

<sup>10</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary: <http://www.samhsa.gov/funding/funding.html>

<sup>11</sup> Office of Justice Programs, FY 2002 Drug Court Grants: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/DrugCourts/02DCgrants.htm>

<sup>12</sup> Housing and Urban Development, *Federally Assisted Low Income Housing Drug Elimination Grants: Detailed Congressional Report, FY 2001*: <http://www.hud.gov/content/releases/drugelimination.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, *COPS Methamphetamine Grant Announcement*, November 14, 2002: [http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth\\_grantees.pdf](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/GrantAnnounce/meth_grantees.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Office of Justice Programs, Missouri FY 2001 Office of Justice Programs and Community Oriented

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<sup>15</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2000*, October 2001: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/00cius.htm>

<sup>16</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2001*, October 2002: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/01cius.htm>

<sup>17</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January - June 2002*, December 2002: [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius\\_02/02ciusprelim.pdf](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius_02/02ciusprelim.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse*, April 2002: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>

<sup>19</sup> Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume I: Highlights and Executive Summary*, June 2001: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/PDF/CEWG/EXSUMJune01.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, January-June 2002 Reporting Period*, November 2002:

[http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/nov02/pulse\\_nov02.pdf](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/nov02/pulse_nov02.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse*, April 2002: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>

<sup>22</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, January-June 2002 Reporting Period*, November 2002:

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<sup>25</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, January-June 2002 Reporting Period*, November 2002:

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse*, April 2002: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>

<sup>28</sup> Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume I: Highlights and Executive Summary*, June 2001: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/PDF/CEWG/EXSUMJune01.pdf>

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<sup>31</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, January-June 2002 Reporting Period*, November 2002:

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<sup>32</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse*, April 2002: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>

<sup>33</sup> Community Epidemiology Work Group, *Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse, Volume I: Highlights and Executive Summary*, June 2001: <http://www.nida.nih.gov/PDF/CEWG/EXSUMJune01.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, January-June 2002 Reporting Period*, November 2002:

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<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy Web site, *Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area* section: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames\\_midw.html](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/frames_midw.html)

<sup>37</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2001*, October 2002: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/01cius.htm>

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<sup>39</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, January-June 2002 Reporting Period*, November 2002:

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- <sup>44</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse, January-June 2002 Reporting Period*, November 2002: [http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/nov02/pulse\\_nov02.pdf](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/nov02/pulse_nov02.pdf)
- <sup>45</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>46</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>47</sup> Office of National Drug Control Policy, *Pulse Check: Trends in Drug Abuse*, April 2002: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/drugfact/pulsechk/2001/index.html>
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- <sup>49</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>50</sup> Ibid.

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